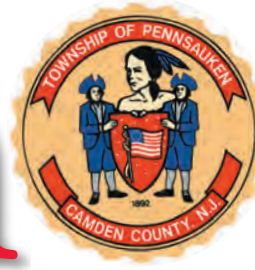


All Around Pennsauken



2022
HAPPY NEW YEAR

VOL. 27, NO. 1

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

January 2022

Township Committee Reorganization Held January 6

The Pennsauken Township Committee will hold its annual reorganization meeting on Thursday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Notice of this meeting was advertised in accordance with the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act." The agenda of the reorganization meeting will include the swearing in of a new mayor, deputy mayor, and committee members, as well as appointments to various positions.

For those unable to attend, a live stream of these proceedings will be available at www.youtube.com/PennsaukenTelevision. Those wishing to make a public comment in lieu of attending may do so at <https://bit.ly/PennTwpComment>.

Township Committee Meetings For 2022

During the Jan. 6 reorganization, Pennsauken Township Committee will set their 2022 meeting dates. All Around Pennsauken posts these public meetings in each issue. Meeting dates can also be found at the Township website, twp.pennsauken.nj.us. Changes to the meeting schedule will be advertised in the Courier-Post and Retrospect newspapers and will be posted online via the Township's website, twp.pennsauken.nj.us; Facebook page, [Facebook.com/PennsaukenTwp](https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenTwp); as well as both its Instagram and Twitter feeds, @PennsaukenTwp.

Over Fifty Families Helped Through 2021 Angel Tree Program

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Each December, members of the Pennsauken community come together to help families in need during the holidays. And much like every year, area residents and local businesses did not disappoint; for Christmas 2021, over 50 families were the gracious recipients of toys, wrapping paper, and more.

"Pennsauken really came together to lend a helping hand to those in need," said Elwood "Duke" Martz, director of municipal services for Pennsauken Township. "We couldn't do the Angel Tree Program without all of the help we get from them. Great donations make it all possible."

"Our Angel Tree Program is really special," said Marco DiBattista, the Township Committee member who served as mayor for 2021. "We have residents, businesses, and organizations coming together to



Pennsauken's Keystone Adjustable Cap was a new participant in the town's Angel Tree Program, donating toys for families in need during the holidays. Pictured here is Tony Malik, director of production for the company.

make sure that families going through a tough time can still have a Christmas and

kids have presents to unwrap. You talk *continued on page 23*

AARP Tax-Aide Services To Begin Next Month

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide services will again be available at the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., to Pennsauken and Merchantville-area residents from Feb. 1 through April 15. There is a different twist this year: there will be no traditional, on-site tax preparation where the taxpayer sits with an AARP Tax-Aide during the tax preparation process. Instead, taxpayers will have the choice of two service models.

Same Day Drop Off

Taxpayers interact with an IRS-certified Tax-Aide in a 20-30 minute in-person and socially distanced meeting. During the appointment, the Tax-Aide will complete the



intake process and write a receipt for all tax documents collected. These meetings, available by appointment only, will take place in the Pennsauken Free Public Library's Community Room on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Before the taxpayer leaves, they will make a follow-up appointment to return the same day to review the printed tax return, sign an authorization for AARP Foundation to file the return electronically, and acknowledge their receipt of the original tax documents.

PLEASE NOTE: The Pennsauken Free Public Library requires all visitors over the age of 2 who enter to wear a mask covering both the nose and mouth, and to maintain social distancing. Visitors are encouraged to limit their time in the building to one hour or less.

Taxpayers can only make appointments by accessing the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Site Locator at: www.aarpfoundation.org/Tax-Aide or accessing the appointment form directly at <http://bit.ly/2uUt19DTax-Aide>, after Jan 15. Taxpayers will receive an automatic confirmation email. A follow-up email from aarp.cc.pt@gmail.com will include the links to documents to *continued on page 22*

Look!
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Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171
Economic Development: x108
Housing/Resale/Rental: x145
Mayor's Office: x152 or 155
Parks and Recreation: x151
Planning and Zoning: x128
Senior Services: x125
Tax Assessor: x112 or 116
Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

Pennsauken Country Club: (856) 662-4961

Pennsauken Free Public Library: (856) 665-5959

Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

EMS: (856) 665-2323

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Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau: (856) 665-0774

Police Department: (856) 488-0080

Pennsauken Municipal Court: (856) 663-1403

Pennsauken Animal Control: (856) 663-3058

Camden County Animal Shelter: (856) 401-1300

Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill: (856) 665-8787

Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission (856) 663-0043

Pennsauken Sewerage Authority: (856) 663-5542

South Jersey Sanitation (Trash/Recycling Vendor): (609) 561-0441

Camden County Board of Social Services: (856) 225-8800

Camden County Municipal Utility Authority (CCMUA): (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water: (800) 272-1325

Pennsauken Police Warn Residents About New Phone Scam

The Pennsauken Township Police Department wants to inform residents about the "Grandparent Bail Scam."

The scam occurs when a caller contacts an elderly victim and portrays themselves as their grandchild, telling them that they were involved in a serious motor vehicle accident, been arrested, and require money for bail.

The caller will then advise the victim on how much money is required to post bail for the grandchild and will coordinate a transfer of the money through the following three methods:

1. Money is collected in person from victims
2. Money is mailed by the victim, mainly through UPS, FedEx
3. Money is sent by the victim through wire transfer



For our senior residents who receive these calls: don't panic! Hang up immediately and contact your grandchildren directly to confirm that they are safe. And NEVER give out any personal information or send any form of payment.

PHS Alumni Luncheon Held On January 19

The monthly Pennsauken High School Alumni Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Jan 19, 1:00 p.m., at Marco's Restaurant at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Reservations are required as space is limited. Call Norma at (856) 220-5597 to reserve a space or for any questions.

Pennsauken Town Watch Meets On January 12

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the second floor of the Pennsauken Township Police Department, 2400 Bethel Ave. This month's meeting is held on Jan 12.

Come learn how to keep your community safe! For more information, visit the "Pennsauken Town Watch" Facebook Group.



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Township Job Positions Available

The Township of Pennsauken has announced the following employment opportunities:

- Deputy Tax Assessor
- Emergency Medical Technician, Part Time

In addition to specific requirements of the positions, applications, which can be downloaded via the Township's website, shall include a copy of a resume, and valid NJ Driver's License. All applica-

tions are due in a sealed envelope and delivered to the attention of Human Resources, Township of Pennsauken, 5605 North Crescent Boulevard, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 by the deadlines specified in the online job descriptions.

Interested parties can find out each open position, as well as download an application, by visiting: www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/jobs-bids.

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EDITOR'S DESK Celebrating The Worst Blind Date Ever

EDITOR'S
DESK



By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

In addition to the start of a brand-new year, January holds another special moment for me: the worst blind date ever.

I got set up on the date by a guy I did some freelance editing for. He asked me if I was seeing anyone, because he knew this great girl and we'd really hit it off. Being a gigantic nerd way before "Big Bang Theory" made it cool, I was on the market. Concerned that me cold calling my potential date with the opening, "Hi, my name is Frank Sinatra. Want to grab some coffee?" would go down in flames, my friend agreed to make introductions.

While I hadn't been on many dates – see my official "nerd" status above – I didn't think it went badly. Dinner at the

Capri Room in town. It's the Tortilla Press now. Seeing an appropriate date movie: "As Good As It Gets," although I had a tough time getting tickets. It'd be two years before Fandango would launch its website. Still, we killed time at the Cherry Hill Mall, where I availed her of my charm and my juggling skills, thanks to the WHYY store, which has gone the way of the Dodo.

Back then, I was not the suave Casanova that I am today. But I really thought I would try and kiss her on our first date. After all, fortune favors the bold. I parked my car outside of her house and was ready to make my move. Then it happened. She quickly thanked me for the date, said goodnight, and ran from my car. Not a brisk walk. Not a light jog. Full on running. That was not a good sign.

So I sat in my car, patted myself on the back for getting out of my comfort zone, and life went back to as normal as it gets for me. Or so I thought.

A few weeks later, I got a call from our mutual friend, asking why I hadn't called the lady back. I explained that I didn't think women who run out of a date's car are too keen on seeing that person again. But I was wrong. It turns out that she did like me. That she was nervous too. And she wasn't opposed to seeing me again. Who knew I made that

kind of impression?

Fast forward to today. The girl who ran out of my car is married to yours truly. We have two kids and a dog, all of whom give us more gray hair than we want. It ain't easy, but it's worth it. And we have one heck of a story about a first date that wasn't terrible at all. The story isn't a bad metaphor for a brand-new year. It may look like a disaster at first, but underneath, 2022 might just be the start of something wonderful.

Happy New Year. Be sure to wash

your hands. And thank goodness for Leonard, Sheldon, Raj, and Howard.

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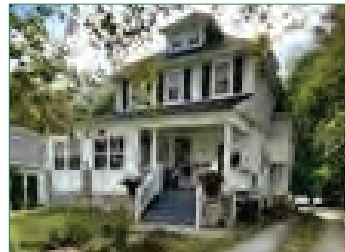
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WAGSWORLD New Electronics For The Heart, New Boats For All The Doctors

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

By the time this edition hits your household, I will be walking around with newly installed spare parts. The modern world of electronics will monitor my heart's electric impulses and pumping capacity. Then, if I need a jumpstart, like when you leave your car lights on and the battery gets low, I will receive an electric shock to keep my engine running.

I am not as excited about this event as my cardio guy and his buddy, the sur-

geon. But they have both assured me that I will be much better off with this high-end electronic device planted in my chest, and they both needed some additional work done on their respective sailboats.

I have kept a pretty close eye on my insurance company's expenses these last few months, and, along with Medicare, I have apparently bought a few new boats for my medical friends. If we list the cardio guy, blood plasma guy, lung, liver and kidney guy, and diabetes gal, I am headed towards the half million

mark. My daily intake of pills is headed toward a hundred a day, retail. Luckily, the wife is a well-seasoned shopper and wields coupons and sales like a surgeon uses a scalpel. She has kept the pharmaceuticals to a manageable price, for now. This new year might be a new challenge, but these big pharma guys must need some more boating accessories also. Any more excitement could be all that I need to kickstart my new jumper box.

I wouldn't mind buying all these new boats for the medical profession if the guys and gals would call once in a while

to take me out with them. I would even bring lunch and buy bait. Then I could catch a fish to eat on my diet of no sugar, no salt, no frying, and little taste. I missed out on a summer of fresh fish because I couldn't get my portable, wearable jump starter near water. It is very hard to catch a fish when staying away from the wetness. Now, with the unit buried in my chest, I can once again get near water. I just have to catch small fish for a while, as big, honking bass and tuna will tax my tired heart, and maybe kick in my new electric impulses. That could be a mess, but it would sort of justify all the expense. But no one has called yet to go boating, anyway.

As another aside, I need some advice

from my readers. I am filling out info forms at all the doctors I see, and they asked if I am a smoker. After years of on again, off again smoking, I still think of myself as a smoker, but one who is currently not smoking. The fact that I have not smoked anything since Father's Day morning does not necessarily make me a non-smoker, just someone temporarily on sabbatical. Or is someone who is not smoking today really a non-smoker? I am not certain.

But I know this to be true. The minute one of my boat-buying, sea sailing doctors tell me I am terminal, I am buying a pack of cigars; a fatty steak and a box of salt; and a six pack of real beer. Til then, Happy New Year!

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club Holds Open Houses

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club is having several open houses this month. Located in the basement of Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Maple Ave., Merchantville, the display features a two-rail, O gauge model railroad, including 4,000 linear feet of track and a reproduction of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station.

The area's largest operating O gauge model railroad display will be open to the public on the following dates:

- Jan. 8 and 9
- Jan. 15 and 16

All open houses run from noon to 3:00 p.m. and are free to attend. Free parking is also available. Grace Church currently requires all visitors to wear a face covering.

For information, contact John P. Dunn Sr. at (609) 432-2871 or jdunn8888@comcast.net. You can also follow "Cherry Valley Model Railroad" on Facebook.



Cherry Valley Model Railroad is holding a series of open houses this month.

*Wishing all our Friends & Neighbors
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Pennsauken Announces New Model For Trash Collection, Recycling

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

Pennsauken Township and its Department of Public Works are excited to announce a new model for waste collection that begins this month. By creating a more collaborative effort between Public Works and our vendor, we can ensure that residents receive the level of service they deserve.

The vendor contracted to serve Pennsauken is Seaside Waste. And while the company name is familiar to residents, a lot has changed from within this business in the last few months. For all intents and purposes, Seaside Waste is a completely different company, comprising of several different organizations coming together under one name. They have brought on a whole new staff for

their trucks, as well as a more dedicated approach to serving our community.

And they won't be working alone. With support from Pennsauken Township Committee, our Public Works Department has acquired a stake-body truck, to be used with the trash truck we already have, for the collection of bulk trash items.

So, what does this mean for residents? First off, your trash and recycling collection remain on the day they've always been. But moving forward, designated Public Works employees will be going through town to collect bulk trash items, allowing Seaside Waste to focus solely on regular trash and recycling collection. Residents can still put out two bulk trash items, such as a couch, desk, etc., at the curb each week on their trash collection

day. The only change is that Public Works will be collecting these instead of Seaside Waste.

Yard waste collection remains unaffected. Pennsauken residents can bag leaves, grass, weeds, etc. and place them at the curb for pick up on Wednesdays. White goods collection, which include metal items such as appliances, filing cab-

inets, water heaters, and the like, still need to be called into our office by Tuesday afternoons, so our Public Works staff can pick them up on Wednesdays.

This new model is a big step forward for Pennsauken. With Seaside Waste focusing on trash and recycling cans, we anticipate that collection will be completed sooner. And if any issues arise, like severe

weather or mechanical problems, support from our Public Works Department ensures that our vendor will be able to catch up more quickly.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to us at (856) 663-0178, email publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us, or connect via Facebook at "Pennsauken Twp. Dept. of Public Works."

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By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

In reflecting upon my article from January of 2021, I described our exit of 2020 as a narrow escape from the worst year in our lifetime. Things have gotten better, but unfortunately, we're not out of the woods yet. Regardless, I resolve to look forward to the positives that 2022 holds, such as the return of more annual events in our community and the ability to enjoy the company of our fellow neighbors and coworkers in a more "normal" way.

Leaf Collection

As we do each and every year, the Department of Public Works suspended

A New Year Filled With New Opportunities To Serve

curbside leaf pile collection on December 31, 2021, and began winter operations to get a jump while the weather is fair. Our Public Works staff is shifting their focus on cleaning leaves out of the parks and playgrounds and now require all remaining leaves to be bagged or canned and placed at the curb for Wednesday yard debris pickup. There is no limit to the amount of yard debris you may place out in this fashion.

Live Christmas Tree Disposal

You can place your live Christmas tree at your curb on Tuesday afternoons for collection during the normal Wednesday yard debris pickup. It does not have to be

in a bag, nor cut up. However, if you have a live tree that is flocked (decorated with fake snow) or has lights/tinsel remaining on the tree, you will have to place it out with your regular trash, due to the non-vegetative material.

Snow Plowing In The Township

Typically, plowing operations won't begin until 4 inches of accumulation. Public Works has the rock salt storage building filled to the brim and is ready for whatever conditions Old Man Winter throws our way.

It is our mission to plow from curb to curb to provide the widest area for emergency vehicles to maneuver. We encourage residents to not dig out their driveway aprons until we've been down your street. This is an unfortunate by-product of plowing, and we request your patience as our crews typically endure

countless overnight hours to clear our town.

In 2021, the Township ordered brine application equipment, as well as brine manufacturing equipment, to add this important snow-fighting tool to the Department of Public Works' arsenal. Brine is created by dissolving rock salt in water to a salination level that helps to prevent snow from sticking to the roadways. You typically see this on county roads and state highways a day or two in advance of an expected snowstorm. We are excited to get this system in place, as we anticipate an early January installation due to supply chain and chip shortage issues.

Here's hoping for another mild winter!

Dealing With Potholes

A winter article wouldn't be complete without the mentioning of potholes. The Department of Public Works has a des-

ignated crew that responds to all reports of potholes located on Pennsauken roads. Remember, not all roads within Pennsauken's borders are owned and maintained by Public Works. Potholes tend to pop up when the weather begins to get warm and then cold again. That being said, if you come across one over the deep freeze months, we can temporarily fill them until conditions are improved enough for a proper cutout and patch to be made.

To report potholes found on county roads, call the Camden County Department of Public Works at (856) 566-2980 or visit CamdenCounty.com/service/public-works/county-road-report-form and submit an issue. For all potholes found on Pennsauken roads, just give our office a call, send us an email, or contact us via Facebook at our info listed below.

I hope you and your loved ones found the Holiday Season to be enjoyable and we look forward to serving you this year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at (856) 663-0178, email at publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us or connect via Facebook at "Pennsauken Twp. Dept. of Public Works."

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Happy New Year From The Pennsauken Lions Club

The Pennsauken Lions Club would like to thank those individuals and organizations that helped to make the club and its initiatives a success during 2021. Your support enabled the Lions to assist less fortunate individuals and families of the Pennsauken and Merchantville communities. Because of this, you helped to shape their lives for the better and we thank you!

During December, the Lions were able to collect toys and gift cards from the club's membership to support Pennsauken Township's annual Angel Tree Program. Thanks to our members' generosity, many children in the community were able to find a toy under their tree on Christmas morning.

While COVID-19 continues to affect our lives after almost two years, the Pennsauken Lions Club continued to support the community by helping our needy food insecure families of the area. Last month, partnering with the Circle of Hope Church, volunteers from Lions Club helped to package 31 food boxes of food. Approximately 3,000 pounds of food were delivered to needy families throughout area.



The membership of the Pennsauken Lions Club collected toys and gift cards to help support the Township's Angel Tree Program in 2021.

The Lions Club has worked tirelessly during this time of uncertainty, extending a helping hand and ensuring that these families are never forgotten. And as we begin this new year, the Pennsauken Lions Club wishes you the best, with the many successes 2022 can bring.

We welcome you to become a Lions Club member and work with us to shape the lives of so many needy families and

help to make a difference for them for the betterment of the Pennsauken community. For more information about the Lions Club, to donate to our vision screening efforts, or to become a member, consider joining us for one of our in-person meetings or attend one virtually. For details, please follow us on Facebook at "PennsaukenLions" or email us at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

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Congratulations To The 2021 Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Pennsauken's Holiday Home Decorating Contest for 2021 and congratulations to all of our winners!



Santa Has Breakfast With Pennsauken Families

Santa came to town for a special breakfast at the Pennsauken Country Club! Families visited with Jolly Ole' Saint Nick and enjoyed a great meal, took pictures with costumed characters, and more.



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Sixth Graders Visit Museum Of The American Revolution



Phifer's sixth grade social studies classes enjoyed a day at the Museum of the American Revolution! Students were able to enhance their learning and understanding of the Revolutionary War and enjoy the wax displays, artifacts, and the collection of art during that period of history.

Fitness And Fun At The Turkey Trot



Pennsauken School Families enjoyed a day of fitness and fun during the District's Turkey Trot and Food Truck Festival in November.

Carson's Kindergarteners Choose Love



Ms. Ashworth's kindergarten class chooses love all year long! "I love the Earth," Nylah Jordan; "I love my skin," Tristan Hood; "I love my brother and sister," Jayden Valez; "I love rainbows," Juliette Ruiz.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic At Phifer Middle School

In an effort to accommodate parents and families with obtaining COVID-19 vaccinations, Pennsauken Public Schools has partnered with the New Jersey Department of Health and Bell Rexall Pharmacy to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations to all eligible children ages 5 and up.

Vaccinations will take place in the Phifer Middle School Gymnasium. This clinic will provide pediatric vaccines for individuals 5 - 11, vaccines for individuals 12 and older, and booster doses. Individuals do not have to be Pennsauken resi-

dents or Pennsauken Public School Students to attend.

The first dose will be administered on Saturday, Jan. 15, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The second dose will be administered on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Individuals under 18 should have a parent or guardian attend with them.

All individuals receiving a vaccination must complete the "Informed Consent" document. The document is on the district website, Pennsauken.net, and will be available the day of the event.

All individuals must wear a face mask at all times while on site. Anyone who feels sick or ill on the day of his/her vaccination should not proceed with vaccination.

Those interested in participating in this vaccination clinic should complete the Google Form at the District website, Pennsauken.net, found in the online news item "Remote Learning 1/3/2022-1/7/2022 & Vaccination Opportunity."

Questions about the event can be directed to the Nurse's Office: (856) 662-8500 ext. 5239.

Celebrating Fine Students Of The Month

In November, Fine's Students of the Month were recognized for their ability to show improvement and great effort. Each classroom selected one student who best exemplified this important trait to receive this recognition. Congratulations!



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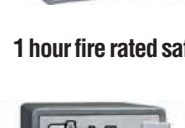
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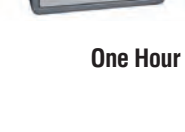
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Phifer Competes In STEAM Tank Finals

By Tracey McSweeney,
Phifer Middle School Robotics Teacher

The STEAM Tank Challenge is a statewide problem-based learning challenge open to New Jersey's K-12 public school children. Organized by the New Jersey School Board Association (NJSBA) and the U.S. Army, the challenge requires students to go beyond the standard science fair to "invent something new, modify an existing product, or identify a situation or real-world problem that needs resolution."

The students who participate work on an original idea of a product they would like to invent using the "Engineering Design Process." The STEAM Tank Challenge encourages students to apply science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) in response to issues facing the world today. The Challenge allows students to contribute to making New Jersey and the world more sustain-

able, healthy, equitable, and safe.

This year, there were 355 submissions from over 60-plus school districts across the state. We are proud to announce two of our Phifer Middle School Pennsauken teams sailed through the regionals and were selected to compete in the October STEAM Tank Finals! Over 100 teams competed in the STEAM Tank Finals; 44 were from the middle school division. Phifer's Middle School students, Melissa Hoang and Cayla Gordon, led team "Smart Wheelchair," and Denise Palmero-Martinez, Amani Kim, and Rebecca Randazzo led team "Tagging Whale Sharks."

Team "Smart Wheelchair" created a prototype that will assist those who have disabilities by maneuvering easily in their chair, while using sensors to avoid obstacles, slow down gradually, and stop when a wall is detected. Their goal is to help those who are wheelchair bound and to assist with mobility issues, increasing the

quality of life with their innovative smart wheelchair design. Melissa and Cayla used an EV3 LEGO robot moving around obstacles with an ultrasonic sensor to demonstrate this idea.

Team "Tagging Whale Sharks" aimed to protect endangered whale sharks. They sought out to design an innovative tagging device that would protect and track whale sharks and transmit data to marine biologists.

Our Pennsauken staff was very impressed and proud of the research, hard work, and dedication that our two female teams put into their projects. Both teams had an enthusiastic presentation and did a great job pitching their ideas, as well as responding to the NJSBA and U.S. Army judges' questions.

The "Smart Wheelchair" team wowed the judges and was one of the groups awarded the 2021 STEAM Tank Certificate of Achievement Award for "Soci-

etal, Social and Emotional Impact." The STEAM Tank judging panel felt there was a definite need within the Americans with Disabilities community for this product. The group also received a special certificate for "Innovative Use of Technology" for their idea of demonstrating the wheelchair obstacle avoidance with a LEGO robot.

When Melissa Hoang heard the news of the award certificates earned, she exclaimed, "I am so glad I got the opportunity to participate in STEAM Tank! The STEAM Tank experience throughout the past couple of years required hard work, but it definitely paid off!"

Cayla Gordon emailed her STEAM Tank advisors and said, "I felt ecstatic when I heard about the STEAM Tank award. It was truly fun and an honor to receive the award."

"Being involved with STEAM Tank was such a wonderful experience. STEAM

Tank helped me to think outside the box and it improved my math and science grades drastically. This is something I would definitely recommend to people who are interested in STEAM!"

Phifer Middle School is extremely proud of our finalist teams. We hope these students will continue to solve problems and motivate others to think like scientists and engineers who will change the world we live in for the better. We would also like to thank the New Jersey School Boards Association's John Henry and Jennifer Siehl, as well as the U.S. Army, who helped organize this great learning challenge, and the judges who provided critical and constructive feedback to our student teams.

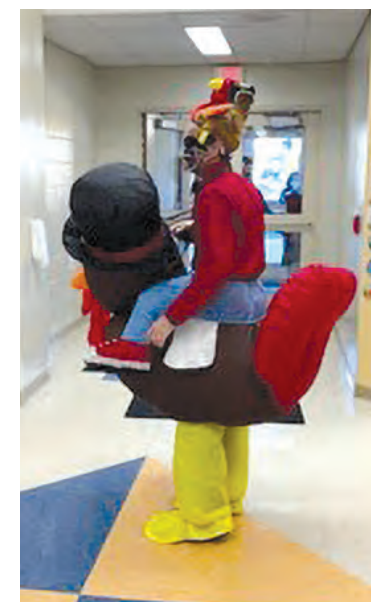
We hope our students are inspired to reach for the stars!

English Language Learners Sponsor Food Drive

Families Enjoy Visits With Santa And Holiday Hayrides



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Santa in the Field House and Holiday Hayride!



Principal Honeyman dressed as a turkey to celebrate Fine's successful food drive.

English language learners at Fine Elementary School celebrated the spirit of giving by collecting canned and packaged foods for the Food Bank of South Jersey and its affiliates.

Principal Honeyman challenged Fine School students and their families to donate over 500 food items between Oct. 13 and Nov. 23. Goal met! Because 597 items were collected, Mr. Honeyman dressed as a turkey in celebration! Kindness, community, generosity, and fun are always in season.

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Fine Holds Special Parent Involvement Night

In December, Fine School held a Parent Involvement Night, showcasing hands-on activities that not only help children work on their math and literacy, but more importantly, become aware of their own social-emotional states.

Three sessions allowed parents to rotate through activities that focused on phonemics and number sense, provided a tutorial on how to maximize a quality reading website, and tips for social-emotional regulation. Fine has implemented the “Zones of Regulation” program, which helps students identify their emotions and devise strategies to properly deal with how they’re feeling. There were many smiles, as families participated in “emotional bingo,” where students and



During Fine's Parent Involvement Night, families learned strategies to help students better deal with their emotions.

parents had to identify the emotion on bingo board faces.

After the learning sessions were finished, families left with books and mate-

rials to do fun activities at home, as well as a personal pizza from Montegrillo's! It was a fun night at Fine that was also another step to more normal days!

Delair Food Drive A Huge Success

Delair Student Council organized a community food drive of non-perishable items to help give back to those in need.

Each grade level was assigned specific groups of food; and Delair was fortunate to have generous families give to many different categories of food, regardless of their Delair student's grade. In just 10 short days, the Delair community collected an incredible 764 pounds of food for The Food Bank of South Jersey, located right here in Pennsauken.

Not only was this food drive an exceptional way to help local families within our very own neighborhood, but it brought our school community together to kick off the holiday season in a positive and cheerful manner.

We are very proud of our young student leaders who have taken great initiative in serving their community and exhibit wonderful kindness in all of their decisions!



Delair's November food drive collected over 700 pounds of non-perishable items for the Food Bank of South Jersey.

Budding Scientists At Franklin Elementary



First graders in Ms. Vesper's and Ms. Segrest's class worked together to build pyramids using a specific number of plastic cups. All students enjoyed this science experiment!

Bullying Prevention Week At Franklin



Franklin students learned to “keep the peace” as part of Bullying Prevention Week.

In November, we recognized Bullying Prevention Week with five days of special activities.

Students wore pajamas to put bullying to sleep on Monday; Tuesday, they wore their clothes backwards to turn their back on bullying; and on Wednesday, they socked it to bullying wearing crazy

socks. Thursday was a buddy day, so students brought in their favorite stuffed animal. Then on Friday, our theme was, “let's keep the peace,” which included a “Bully No More” assembly.

We hope that everyone will put everything we learned to good use!

Culinary Class Makes Holiday Cookies



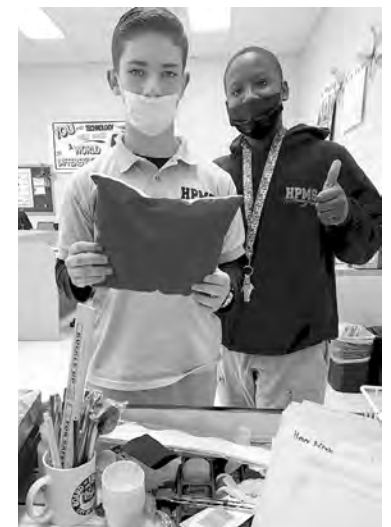
Students in Mr. Villiari's culinary class made a variety of cookies for the holidays, including pizzelles!

Nurse Wira Retires From Phifer



The Pennsauken School District bid farewell to Nurse Liz Wira, who retired last month. Phifer staff surprised her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and gifts. Students and staff will miss her but hopes she enjoys this new chapter in her life.

Phifer Students Are Sew Talented



Look out for Phifer Middle School's next fashion designers, as Ms. Lawrence's sewing classes created their own unique masks and fluffy pillows during class! Students have learned to sew, align fabric, choose contrasting colors, and embroider their names on material.

Unique Book Reports At Phifer



Ms. Legato shows off her student's unique book report projects made from cereal boxes. Students personally designed their boxes, giving the book's title, character, summary, and their personal recommendations! Way to go Ms. Legato and her language arts students!

Students Of The Month At Franklin



Congratulations to all of Franklin's Students of the Month for November!

Puratos, Pennsauken Public Schools Partner For Baking School At PHS

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, District officials and executives from the Puratos Corporation signed a contract officially bringing a baking school to Pennsauken High School. The agreement not only strengthens Pennsauken High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, but also marks the establishment of Puratos Corporation's first and only baking school in the United States.

"Today, we're having a contract signing to bring Puratos to Pennsauken Public Schools," said Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent of Pennsauken Public Schools during a special event in December. "While this will be our 12th CTE program, this is one of the most special that we've done, because this is a direct link to international employment for our students."

"We're very proud to be able to bring the bakery school here to the USA," added Andrew Brimacombe, president of Puratos USA. "We're tremendously

excited about the partner that we've found in Pennsauken High School. We're incredibly impressed with the work that's already been done on the other CTE programs. It gives us huge confidence that this bakery school program is going to make an amazing contribution to Pennsauken High School and the community that we serve."

Puratos' Bakery School Foundation has invested in bakery schools across the globe, teaching young people the skills needed to work in the bakery, patisserie, and chocolate sectors. Upon completion of the program, combined with the experience learned through paid internships, students walk away with the knowledge and skill to make a real career in the baking industry.

"This is a great day for us and the community," said Paul Bakus, president of Puratos North America. "I really want to thank Dr. T and the team for the leadership you've shown and what you're



Pennsauken Public Schools has partnered with Puratos Corporation to bring a baking school CTE program to Pennsauken High School.

bringing to the community. We're humbled to bring our baker program as an extension of what you're already doing.

"Our customers are deeply, if not more excited than we are about this program, because they truly have a need. They love the idea of bringing the next generation of bakers to this program, be able to hit the ground running in their

bakeries and be able to see these kids really create wonderful careers."

"We can't even begin to thank Puratos for what they have done," said Nick Perry, president, Pennsauken Board of Education. "This program helps provide hope for our children and success in the future. And that's what this is all about."

Celebrating Veterans Day At Carson School

Ms. Vance's second and third grade students spent a lot of time learning about Veterans Day! They learned all about the history of this special day, and the many branches of the United States military. As a culminating activity, these students performed a Reader's Theater titled, "Veterans Day." Students acted out the following characters: a Marine, a Navy Sailor, an Army Soldier, and a narrator. They wore patriotic hats, made poppy pins, as well as sang and marched to "You're A Grand Old Flag." It was a wonderful tribute to veterans!



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- Must pass CDL Permit Written Test P/S Endorsement
- Background Check

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

WITH CURRENT CDL CLASS B & REQUIRED P/S Endorsements:

- Must Pass Drug Test
- Background Check



For More Information call 856-662-8502

Third Grade Scientists Experiment At Fine

Mrs. Keim's third grade class at Fine has been busy learning about force. During science class, the students have been enjoying reading and conducting experiments to help identify the different types of force and how it applies to our every-

day lives.

Playing a version of air hockey gave the students time to practice changing the direction of an object. We also had the chance to see how force affects motion. The students have been engaged in

the lesson creating the experiments, following directions, team building, measuring distances, and taking notes just like real scientists!



Third graders at Fine played a version of air hockey to learn about force.

Carson Third Graders Are Math Wizards



Mr. Sax's third graders at Carson are mastering their multiplication facts. Each day, students practice their facts with timed tests, Reflex Math, and other math fact games. Pictured here are two students playing a "math fact war" card game!

Delair Celebrates November Birthdays



Delair celebrated with all their students that had birthdays in November! The birthday boys and girls enjoyed a celebration filled with singing, a special certificate, and a fun birthday pencil!

Baldwin Raises Funds For CHOP



Ms. Weissman's and Mrs. Bendel's class had so much fun playing in our PJs to help raise money for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Baldwin school raised \$1,106! Thank you so much for your donations! We greatly appreciate your support!

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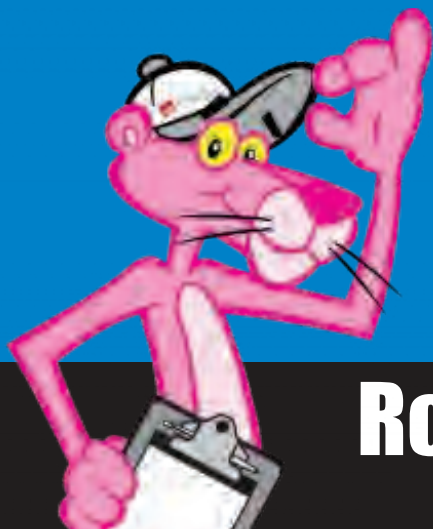
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Pennsauken's first responders will once again complete to see who can recruit the most eligible blood donors in the community during an American Red Cross Battle of the Badges blood drive rematch on Thursday, Jan. 20, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Marco's at Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

"Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive Rematch January 20

Presenting donors will have the opportunity to cast a vote for Pennsauken's police or fire departments, with the winning agency earning a plaque and bragging rights. Last year, the Pennsauken Township Police Department took the top spot for 2021 with 47 donors; but the real winners were the over 330 people who were helped by these blood donations.

Appointments are encouraged; walk-ins will be accommodated as time and

space allow. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and search by zip code and the date, Jan. 20, or call 1-800-REDCROSS.

How To Donate Blood

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in gen-

erally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About The American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit RedCross.org.

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Patrolman Rivera Retires After Almost Thirty Years Of Service

Congratulations to Patrolman Juan Rivera on his retirement from the Pennsauken Township Police Department after almost three decades of service to our community. We wish you the best as you enjoy your family and get ready for your next chapter!



Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686

Wishing All A Happy & Prosperous New Year!

Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet

Please do not flush baby wipes, "flushable" wipes, disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and supposedly "flushable" wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

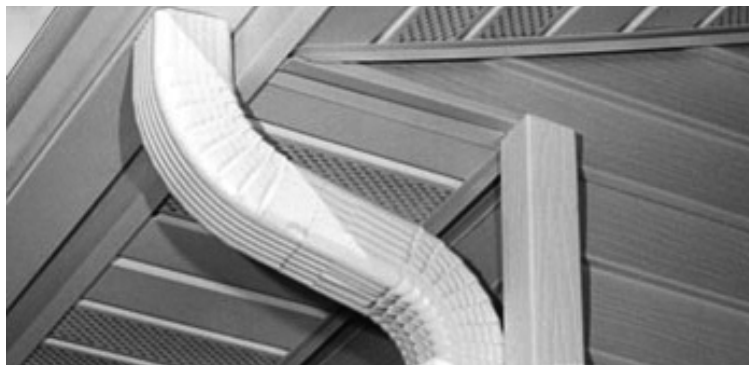
The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist residents. We will

respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance, call (856) 662-0686.



Improper Connections Cause Property Damage

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



REMINDER: CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

THE LOBBY IS NOW OPEN • OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DRIVE THRU IS NOW OPEN DURING OUR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

PLEASE USE MAIL SLOT LOCATED IN OUR PUBLIC ENTRANCE DOOR TO DROP PAYMENTS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.

TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE – VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.PSEWER.COM AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON – WILL NEED YOUR ACCOUNT ID AND PIN.

LASTLY YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A PAYMENT USING YOUR OWN ONLINE BANKING.

If there is a sewer emergency, call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email customerservice@psewer.com and we will respond in a timely fashion.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

Pennsauken Celebrates Holidays With Tree Lighting

Santa Claus helped flip the switch for the return of Pennsauken's annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Light Extravaganza! Attendees enjoyed an amazing display of lights, festively decorated fire engines, jeeps, and public works vehicles, as well as musical performances.



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MPWC WATERLINES

*The Commissioners and staff of The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission would like to wish you a **HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!***

Important Information About Your Water Bill

The MPWC remains committed to providing you with clean, safe, and reliable water at all times. As we prepare for the next phase of returning to standard operations, we'd like to remind you that payment arrangements are available.

While Governor Murphy's moratorium on utility shutoffs for low- and moderate-income households has been extended to March 15, 2022, residents should reach out now regarding putting together payment plans to pay back any

outstanding balances.

The MPWC will work with you to ensure that your service is not interrupted, but you must contact us to make arrangements prior to this extended deadline.

Our staff is standing by Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to assist you with repayment options by phone at (856) 663-0043. If you prefer to visit us in person, be reminded that our lobby closes at 3:00 p.m. each day.

MPWC Water Service Line Inventory Continues

The MPWC sincerely appreciates our customers' response to our request for assistance in identifying customer owned portions of the water lines in our service area.

If you are not already aware, New Jersey Assembly Bill 5343 requires all water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines. The majority of our service lines are copper. However, we are required to provide an accurate inventory of the various service line types on the customer owned portion of the service

for our entire service area.

YOU CAN HELP by informing us of the type of water line coming into your property. If you know what kind of pipes you have (copper, plastic, galvanized steel, lead, etc.) you can call our office and report the information to one of our Customer Support Reps. You can also visit our website at www.mpwc.com for valuable information and pictures to assist you with identifying your water service line and service line type.

If you are unsure, you may schedule

an appointment with a Service Technician, or you can snap a photo of the pipe coming into the property that connects to your water meter.

Send your photos along with your property address to: info@mpwc.com or call us at: (856)663-0043.

We thank you for your continued cooperation, as we work to meet the state's deadline for confirming our system inventory and continuing to provide the best quality water possible.

A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

The MPWC remains committed to providing you with clean, safe, and reliable water at all times. As we prepare for the next phase of returning to standard operations, we'd like to remind you that payment arrangements are available.

While Governor Murphy's moratorium on utility shutoffs for low- and moderate-income households has been extended to March 15, 2022, residents should reach out now regarding putting together payment plans to pay back any outstanding balances.

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KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission are held in person on the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

The location is the G. Burton German meeting room at the MPWC's Administrative Headquarters, 6751 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. The public is invited to attend.

For more information, visit our website, MPWC.com

WATER EMERGENCY?

Call 856-663-0044 anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Did You Know...

Ball Valve



Gate Valve

All main shut off valves and interior plumbing within the property are the customer's responsibility to maintain and repair.

PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

Log onto our website at www.mpwc.com and select the "Pay Your Bill" button right from our homepage.

High water bill?

The toilet's flapper may be the culprit to cause an "invisible leak".



A toilet is made to fill up as soon as the water in the tank dips low. If the flapper doesn't keep the water in the tank, water is flowing through the meter to increase your bill.

MERCHANTVILLE – PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, 856-663-0043 www.mpwc.com

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President ■ Mr. Shakir Ali, Vice President

Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer ■ Mr. Edward Brennan, Secretary

Mr. Frank Warwick, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

In the GARDEN Winter's A Great Time To Prepare For Spring

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

Let's face it. It's cold outside! I hope that when we had some warm spells last month, you had an opportunity to get into the shed to clean out the junk and get things more organized for spring. And as much as I hate to mention it, now is a good time to make sure you have easy access to your snow shovels. Brrr...

Many gardeners dream of springtime while watching the icicles form outside their windows. But you don't have to just dream. You can plan your gardens in January so that you're ready to plant in May.

Think about what you want your garden to look like this spring and put your

ideas to paper. Thinking of moving your hostas from your back yard to the front garden? Looking to split your big yucca so it can be spread around your property? Figuring out where you want to plant your bulbs this year? Put together a game plan now to make things easier for after Mother's Day.

Looking to start a garden from scratch? You can order a variety of seeds and bulbs online. There are plenty of sites on the internet where you can order exactly what you're looking for. There are also some online bundles where you can get a bunch of seeds to grow a variety of herbs and vegetables. Just make

sure to do your homework first, so that what you're purchasing actually makes sense for your property.

If you're storing bulbs, be sure to check on them every couple of weeks so they don't have mold forming on them. Remove any moldy roots to prevent them from affecting the others; and be sure to keep them moist so that they

don't dry out.

When comes to storing seeds, it's just the opposite. They need to be dry. If they're too wet, that can damage them. Avoid humid areas too, as that can cause your seeds to sprout. And absolutely be sure to store your seeds in a place that is pest free. Mickey or Jerry doesn't need a wintertime snack.

If you're not sure about how to best store your bulbs or seeds, a quick Google search can go a long way to making you – and your garden – look good come spring.

Happy New Year! Thank you for taking the time to read my column. And as always, be kind, be beautiful, and be happy!

CLERKS

OWNER

Application For 2022 Dog & Cat Licenses

By Pam Forman, Acting Township Clerk

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Number of Dogs at this address _____

Dog's Name _____

M/F _____ Dog's Age _____ Breed _____

Length of Dog's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings _____

Altered (Circle one) Yes / No Date _____

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date _____

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Number of Cats at this address _____

Cat's Name _____

M/F _____ Cat's Age _____ Breed _____

Length of Cat's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings _____

Altered (Circle one) Yes / No Date _____

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date _____

As of the first Monday in February, all dog/cat license renewals are late and a \$10 late fee will be assessed.

FEES: \$12 if the dog/cat has been spayed or neutered (altered)/\$15 if not spayed or neutered (altered). Renew by mail: fill out form and enclose a check or money order for the exact amount made payable to the Township of Pennsauken and mail it to Attn: Twp. Clerk's Office, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110. **Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copies for proof of rabies inoculation.** Renew in person between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Clerk's office. Any questions please call 856-665-1000 x122.

State regulations consider a dog/cat's vaccination valid only if it DOES NOT expire before Nov. 1 of the current year and failure to obtain or renew a dog/cat license could result in a court summons.

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AARP Tax-Aide Services To Begin Next Month

continued from page 1

be printed, completed, and brought to the drop-off site. If you do not have a printer, packets containing all required documents will be available for pick-up at the Library's circulation desk.

Beginning mid-January, you can visit

a special kiosk at the circulation desk at the Pennsauken Free Public Library to sign-up for a tax preparation appointment. If you do not have an email address, no problem! Confirmation forms and intake packets will be available at the Library's circulation desk.

If there are no appointments available, taxpayers can add themselves to the appointment waitlist. An AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will contact waitlisted taxpayers by phone as appointments become available.

Self Preparation

Under this model, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides taxpayers with free access to software so they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also request help from an IRS-certified counselor to coach them through the process by phone or through computer screen-sharing. Participants can only request virtual tax prep assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's website:

www.aarpfoundation.org/Tax-Aide. Participants must provide a private email address to use this model.

Please do not contact the Pennsauken Library about any of the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service offerings. They are wonderful, supportive hosts, but they are not AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers. The links referenced in this article have also been shared with the library.

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Over Fifty Families Helped Through 2021 Angel Tree Program

continued from page 1

about 'Pennsauken Proud.' I couldn't be more proud of how this community goes above and beyond each and every year during the holidays."

Throughout December a variety of residents, many of whom wished to remain anonymous, dropped off donations of new, unwrapped toys. In addition, the response to the Township's toy donation drop off during its Tree Lighting was impressive, filling several buckets with presents for needy children.

Keystone Adjustable Cap, a Pennsauken-based company that offers a broad spectrum of disposable protective wear for a variety of industries, participated in the Angel Tree Program for the very first time.

"We wanted to participate this year. We're happy to help children at Christmastime that could use some well-needed gifts," explained Tony Malik,

director of production for Keystone Adjustable Cap. "The employees were so excited to participate and we're just happy to help children."

Many other individuals, groups, and businesses provided toy and/or financial donations to help the Angel Tree program, including AMVETS Post 101 Ladies Auxiliary; Baldwin Early Childhood Learning Center; Bombardier Transportation; Employees of the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building;

Gross-Hollinshead VFW Post 1270 Auxiliary; Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission; Physicians and Tactical Healthcare Services, LLC (PATHS); the Pennsauken Lions Club; the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (PMAC); Rosenberger North America; T&M Associates; Joel Bethany and Chris Ochma; and Joyce Lattiere. The Pennsauken Angel Tree Program thanks them for their extremely generous donations.



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Instagram: jacquiehandbags • Email: jacquiehandbags@gmail.com
Jacqueline Morton, Owner

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Gospel Meeting - 12noon
Sunday School & Adult Class - 12:30pm
Reunión español - 2:00pm



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FACEBOOK/YouTube - "Pennsauken Gospel Hall"

**PENNSAUKEN
GOSPEL HALL**

6530 Caroline Ave. at Rt 38, Pennsauken, NJ

Police Make Donation To Women's Shelter



Officers of the Pennsauken Police Department continued their "No-Shave" fundraising for the month of December. Participating officers purchased new toys and delivered them to the Camden County Women's Shelter, just in time for Christmas.

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HAPPY HOUR AN ALL-DAY AFFAIR!

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3 PENNSAUKEN LOCATIONS

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6830 S Crescent Blvd. and Marlton Pike
5005 Crescent Blvd. and Browning Road

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pennsauken's Kofoet Receives Award For Work With Veterans

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

During Camden County's observance of Pearl Harbor Day, longtime Pennsauken resident Bernie Kofoet was the proud recipient of the Reverend Peter A. Molnar Veterans Award, which is presented to an individual who has been significantly involved with veterans activities in the county and across the state.

"Within the New Jersey veteran community, like a rock star who is known by one name, all you have to say is 'Bernie,' and everyone knows who you are talking about," says Camden County Commissioner Melinda Kane, who also serves as the liaison to the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs. "And everyone says the same thing, 'I love him! He's great!'"

He has done a tremendous amount for our community."

Kofoet, was recently sworn in as commander of the Camden County Veterans Advisory Committee, a volunteer organization that represents nearly 23,000 Camden County veterans and their families that advises the Camden County Board of Commissioners and all other levels of government on issues pertaining to veterans and their well-being, including legislation, activities, and new benefits. He is currently a member of the American Legion FW Grigg Post #68 where he serves as their finance officer, public relations officer, and historian. Bernie also serves in various positions within the American Legion at the dis-

trict and statewide levels. In September, he represented the American Legion in the county's 20th anniversary of the 9/11 Remembrance and has been very instrumental in serving veterans in need through various Stand Down Events.

"Thank you for this great honor," said Kofoet. "My life has been about giving back to my community. When I retired, I had more time to devote to veterans. Lord willing and the tide don't rise, I hope to continue with my efforts."



During Camden County's observance of the attack on Pearl Harbor, longtime Pennsauken resident Bernie Kofoet received the Reverend Peter A. Molnar Veterans Award, recognizing his extensive work with veterans.

Longtime Municipal Staffers Retire



Congratulations to four members of Pennsauken's municipal staff, who retired last month after many years of dedicated service to Pennsauken residents. Thank you to IT Director Rick Vallet (24 years); Payroll Supervisor Vicki Iaconelli (40 years); Human Resources Director Barb Corbett (37 years); and Chief Financial Officer Ron Crane (30 years). You make us Pennsauken Proud!

Scout Troop 118 Holds Recruiting Event January 22

Boy Scout Troop 118 will be holding an open recruiting event at Pinsetters Bowling on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. All boys 11-15 years old interested in learning more about the troop and the fun and adventure of Scouting are invited to bowl a free game with the troop. Those attending must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Anyone who is interested but cannot attend the bowling event is invited to stop in during Troop 118's regular meetings, held Mondays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Maple Ave, Merchantville.

For more information, visit www.scouting118.org or email info@scouting118.org.

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QMA is offering immediate positions for Resident Counselors (RC)

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FOODADVENTURES Stop The Presses: Burger King Brings Back Italian Original Chicken Sandwich

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

For this edition of Food Adventures, I'm filling in for our regular columnist Rachael this month. She'll be back adventuring in February.

I don't mind, because I get to share my unhealthy love affair for an extremely guilty pleasure: Burger King's Italian Original Chicken Sandwich, which is back for a limited time.

Now I realize that Burger King's decision to bring back this sandwich isn't earth shattering news for most people. But I am not most people. Truth be told, I have been obsessed with Burger King's Italian Original Chicken Sandwich since it came out in 1988. Mom would take us



Burger King has brought back the Original Italian Chicken Sandwich for a limited time. Photo credit: Burger King.

to BK as a treat back then; and what started out as a "change of pace" order instead of a Whopper with cheese turned into my go-to choice moving forward until they discontinued it, much to my dismay. The fast food chain did bring it back temporarily in 2014, but for me, this sandwich item should be a permanent part of the menu.

The sandwich is simple. Take Burger King's regular Original Chicken Sandwich, get rid of the mayo, lettuce, and tomato, and put on marinara and mozzarella cheese instead. Released as part

of Burger King's International Chicken Sandwiches line, it's the one that had the most legs, outlasting the French and American versions.

Is it chicken parm? Kind of. Is it fine dining? Not in the least. But it struck a chord with enough people – yours truly included – that BK brings it back every few years. Of course, I'm not sure other people order Original Chicken Sandwiches "dry," take them home, add Don Pepino Pizza Sauce and sliced mozzarella from Di Pascale's at Meadowbrook, and throw it in the oven for a few minutes when the sandwich isn't on the menu.

For now, Burger King's Italian Original Chicken Sandwich is part of the chain's "two for \$6" promotion. The sandwich can be paired with a Whopper, Impossible Whopper, the regular Original Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Fries, or a Big Fish. Or you can just buy two Ital-

ian Original Chicken Sandwiches. Which I have done. On several occasions.

There are three Burger Kings in town. Two BKs are on Rt. 130: 4801 N. Crescent Blvd. and 7850 S. Crescent Blvd. There's also one at 1071 Rt. 73. The good folks who work at these stores do not know me by name... yet. But that may change. After all, the Italian Original Chicken Sandwich is only available for a

limited time.

Whatever your guilty pleasure is – Italian Original Chicken Sandwich or otherwise – enjoy your Food Adventures.

Make sure to join Rachael's Facebook page, "AAP Food Adventures," or her Instagram @AAPFoodAdventures, to share pics of you enjoying a Burger King Italian Original Chicken Sandwich. Or maybe that will be just me.

VFW Post 1270 Hosts Soup Cook Off On January 15

VFW Post 1270 is hosting its second-annual "soup cook off" on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2:00 p.m., at 2324 Penn St., Pennsauken. Prizes will be awarded for the best three entries. There is no entrance fee, but participants can taste and judge submissions for \$5.

Cook off participants can sign up by stopping by the post, which opens at 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Competitors can also call (856) 317-9081. The deadline to register is Saturday, Jan. 8.

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY The Return Of In-Person Events From The Friends Of The Library

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

Start planning what you're going to bring for lunch, because one of our most popular get togethers – Munch and a Movie – starts up again this month after waaaaay too long an absence! On Tuesday, Jan. 18, we'll meet in the newly re-opened Community Room at the Pennsauken Library from noon to 3:30 p.m. to chow down on what you've brought for lunch – we'll supply coffee and water – and watch a first-rate movie while we're noshing. Masks are required while you're not eating, and we'll maintain safe distances. As always, li-

censing regulations don't allow us to divulge the name of the movie, but you can find out by calling the library's circulation desk before the 18th to see what's in store on the silver screen. See you on there!

In keeping with our reopening theme, we'll be starting in-person chair yoga sessions again this month, after two long years, and carrying over for the next two months. The one-hour sessions will take place Jan. 7, 14, and 21; February 4, 11, and 18; and March 4 and 11, all beginning at 10:30 a.m. Since attendance will be limited to 20 in-person attendees, there will also be the opportunity for hybrid

virtual participation via Zoom with unlimited participation. Our popular wellness instructor, Michele Carlino, will conduct the sessions.

If you want the option to attend in person, either stop by the circulation desk to register, or call the library at (856) 665-9595, ext. 3 to sign up. Once we register the maximum number of in-

person participants, you can request to be on the waiting list. Everyone who registers to participate in person will also be registered in Zoom, so they'll have the option to attend virtually any time. If you're Zooming the sessions, here's the link: <https://tinyurl.com/FOLYOGA>.

Finally, even though it's still winter,

we're thinking and planning ahead to April, for the resumption of our annual Art Show and Sale. We're also hard at work planning our Silent Art Auction and Wine Tasting event, taking place on June 5 at the beautiful Strain Estate, known locally as Inglesby & Sons on Cove Rd. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for specifics!

Woman's Club Hits The Runway For A Good Cause

Members of the Merchantville Woman's Club hit the runway during the New Jersey State Federation's Southern State Luncheon and Fashion Show, held at the Pennsauken Country Club in November.

Jessie Coldey, Anita Osmian, Trudy Painter, Connie Potenza, and Sandy Clark showcased fashions by Chico's for a very good cause. Proceeds from the event went to benefit Operation Chillout, New Jersey's oldest all-volunteer mobile outreach for homeless veterans. Since December of 2000, Operation Chillout has created awareness of the multi-faceted nature of poverty and homelessness and advocated for sustainable solutions and programs serving the needs of the poor, addicted, abused and homeless to improve the quality of their lives leading to permanent change and independent living.

The Woman's Club of Merchantville is a social, volunteer organization support-



Members of the Merchantville Woman's Club participated in a fashion show that helped raise funds for Operation Chillout.

ing local, state, and international organizations. New members are always wel-

come. Please contact Jan at (609) 410-4650 or janwh@aol.com for more information.

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GRAYMATTERS Wishing Everyone A Happy New Year, And That's A Quote

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

Happy New Year One
and All!

The year 2022 is finally upon us and I hope with all of my heart that this year is filled with joy and hope, good health and

prosperity, as well as lots of genuine fun and laughter for you and for all those you love.

You know I'm looking forward to 2022, because, as you may know, in April, I get to celebrate my annual 18th birthday, so how bad can it be? You should try it. Sincerely, the longer you're 18, the bet-

ter you get at it. Maybe that's not a bad resolution for the new year.

Actually, I take that back. Nope. No resolutions for me. Once again, I'm not making any because unless I write one that states, "I resolve to eat at least three of Aunt Charlotte's chocolate truffles once a day, every day throughout 2022,"

it ain't gonna happen. So, I'm quittin' while I'm ahead.

I am, however amassing quite a lot of quotes that I enjoyed reading over the last year or so and I've actually taken several to heart. Maybe I'll call them my grey-area resolutions.

As for now, I close out my January column by wishing you one more time all the best the new year has to offer: much love and kindness; good health and purpose; a good sense of humor; and genuine friends who will love you through the thick and thin of reality.

By the way, here are two quotes I found today. Not that I expected to find David Bowie and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the same newspaper article, but here they are, nonetheless.

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

And... "I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."
—David Bowie

Peace and love to you always and again, a very happy and un-boring 2022!
Your friend, ~Judy

SENIORCORNER

Energy Assistance, Preventive Services Available For Seniors

By Sonny DiSabato,
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors. You may be eligible for some help keeping your home warm during the winter, thanks to several government-sponsored programs.

The Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally funded program, providing one-time aid to low income households for their heating costs. Even if these costs are included as part of an individual's rent, they may still be eligible to receive aid. Benefit eligibility is dependent upon income guidelines and whether or not you're responsible for paying for their heat. The Home Energy Assistance Program is administered by the Office of Housing and Community Resources. For more information, call (800) 510-3102.

Created by New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities, the Universal Service

Fund helps low-income households pay for their electric and natural gas bills. To qualify, a household must be income eligible based on program guidelines and spend more than three percent of household income on gas and/or electricity. For more information, call (866) 240-1347.

The Lifeline Utility Assistance Program helps eligible low-income senior citizens and the disabled with their electric and natural gas costs. Homeowners and renters can apply for Lifeline by filling out the Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) application. For more information, call (800) 792-9745.

The Temporary Relief For Utility Expenses (TRUE) program was designed to provide one-time relief for low to moderate income households to pay their natural gas and electric bills. This program provides benefits only to income eligible

households who have not received assistance through the Universal Service Fund or the Home Energy Assistance Program in the past 12 months, have a notice of overdue payment for gas or electric service, and have a good payment history on their utility bills. For more information, call (732) 982-8710.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps elderly, handicapped and low-income persons to weatherize their homes, improving their heating system efficiency and conserving energy. Eligible recipients will receive both an energy audit and installation of the recommended energy efficiency measures at no cost. For more information, call (609) 984-9889.

Wishing you good health and happiness in the New Year. Let's pray that we stop the spread of COVID-19 and get back to normal.

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Annual Angel Ornament Pick Up Event



Over the holiday season, our staff and their families hosted our annual Personalized Angel Ornament Pick-Up event. Each year we personalize angel ornaments for each family we have had the honor to serve throughout All Saints Day of the previous year to All Souls Day of the current year. Each family is then invited to pick up their ornament at our annual event where we pay tribute to each of their loved ones with a slideshow video. We also gave each family beautiful candy canes that were made by Aunt Charlotte's Candies in Merchantville. We love being able to see all of the families we have been trusted to help and catch up during the holidays. We hope everyone has had a safe and happy holiday season!



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PENNSAUKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Pennsauken Free Public Library is one of 12 New Jersey libraries chosen to participate in New Jersey Library Association's Access Navigators Program. An Access Navigator, Jeff Bolmeyer, will join the library on Tuesdays beginning this month, enhancing the library's re-

Library Selected for New Jersey's Access Navigator Program

sources for job seekers and persons looking to build their career skills. The program will also provide digital literacy instruction for those wishing to improve their computer skills.

From assistance with resumes, cover letters, and job searching, to help with computer-based applications and electronic learning aids, the Access Navigators program aims to provide individualized assistance for patrons. Anyone who would

like to participate in the program will begin with a guided assessment to identify goals and then create a step-by-step plan to meet them.

Appointments with Jeff will be available beginning Jan. 4. Please call the library at (856) 665-5959, ext. 3 to schedule an appointment. Jeff will also teach a 6-week Basic Computer Skills course scheduled to begin on Jan. 25 that will cover using the internet and setting up an

email account, as well as an introduction to Microsoft Office applications.

"We are delighted to participate in this program and to welcome our Access Navigator, Jeff Bolmeyer, to Pennsauken," Library Director Tanya Finney Estrada remarked. "This program will allow us to enhance our services to the community by providing one-on-one support for patrons who need these resources and skills."

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The Pennsauken Free Public Library will be closed on New Year's, Jan. 1, as well as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Jan. 17.

January Library Events

Please note, at all library events held in person, all patrons ages 2 and over will be expected to follow all current COVID-19 policies, including mask wearing at all times and social distancing when applicable.

- Animal Crossing "Isle of PL" Open Play Hours - Monday, Jan. 3; 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The "Isle of PL" welcomes Animal Crossing New Horizons players! To visit, add the PFPL's Nintendo Friend Code, SW-3902-1262-4235; then once playing, visit your airport, and select "visit through online play" to find us. For questions, contact youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org or (856) 665-5959 ext. 6.
- Take and Make Tuesdays - Tuesdays, Jan. 11 & 25; During regular hours. Stop by our Youth Services Department for free crafts that you can take with you and make at home! Available while

supplies last.

- PJ Storytime - Thursday, Jan. 13; 6:00 p.m. Cozy up in your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed animal, and join us for a special night-time storytime! Registration required. Please contact Youth Services to register.
- Pour Painting Workshop - Saturday, Jan. 15; 11:00 a.m. For teens and adults. Pour painting is a fun and fluid technique for producing colorful artwork. Create your own unique painting in this hands-on workshop! Registration required and a \$5 fee will confirm your place in the class. Please call or visit the library to register.
- Preschool Storytime - Tuesdays, Jan. 18, & 25; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for interactive storytime fun! Registration is required at [https://](https://tinyurl.com/pfplstory22)

tinyurl.com/pfplstory22. For children ages 3+ and their caregivers.

- Mindfulness Practice For All - Wednesday, Jan. 19; 6:30 p.m. All ages welcome! Join mindfulness coach Courtney Schunick for an introduction to the many benefits of mindfulness followed by a guided practice. Registration required. Please call the library or register online: <https://tinyurl.com/pfplmindfulness>.
- Yoga Storytime - Thursday, Jan. 20; 11:00 a.m. Explore stories through movement with Ms. Sabrina! Work on developing balance, spatial awareness, flexibility, and mindfulness. Please bring your own yoga mat or towel. Advance registration required. Please contact Youth Services to register.
- The Great Kindness Challenge - Jan. 24-28. All ages. Spread kindness throughout

Pennsauken the week of Jan. 24! Checklists in English and Spanish will be available at the library.

- Library Board of Trustees Meeting - Monday, Jan. 24; 6:00 p.m. Join us at the monthly Library Board of Trustees Meeting. This meeting will be held in Zoom. No need to register or RSVP; just open <https://tinyurl.com/pfplboard> 2021 in your browser, and you'll quickly be admitted to the meeting.
- Basic Computer Skills - Tuesday, Jan. 25; 1:00 p.m. For adults. Learn basic computer skills, including using the internet and setting up an email account in this six-week course. Participants will also be introduced to Microsoft Office. Registration required. Please call the library or register online: <https://tinyurl.com/pfplclasses>.
- The Total Resume - Wednesday, Jan. 26; 11:00 a.m. For adults. Learn how to create both your resume and cover letter, and make sure that they are top

notch for each job that you apply to. This workshop is offered by the Center for Family Services. Registration required. Please call or visit the library.

- AARP Tax-Aide Information Session - Thursday, Jan. 27; 6:30 p.m. For teens and adults. Join us to learn about changes to AARP's Tax-Aide 2021 Return Preparation sessions offered at the library. Presenters Ellyn McMullin and Joe Casella will review new and updated tax laws, including stimulus updates. No registration necessary, just follow the link to join the webinar: <https://tinyurl.com/pfpltax21>. Please contact the library with any questions.
- Teen Squid Games - Saturday, Jan. 29; noon. For teens grade 9 and up. Join Youth Services for a friendly version of the hit show's competition. Compete in various games, puzzles, and more for prizes! Registration required. Contact Youth Services to register.



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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

inSports Senior Indians Win Tri-County Youth Football

By Coach Kirk Jones

The Pennsauken Senior Indians of the Tri-County Youth Football Association won the league championship on Nov. 28 at Pennsauken High School's Vince McAneney Field. The 60-6 championship victory completes an undefeated season for the Senior Indians. In addition, the team won three out of four games to earn the silver championship at a national youth football tournament in Atlanta, Ga. in December.

The Senior Indians have been relying on the play of Joe Delece IV, Alston Frisby, Karon Ali, Anthony Jackson, Naim Presberry, Jason Nelson, Alex Williams, Donovan Linthicum, Giovanni

DeGuzman, TJ Maddox, Alex Haskell, and Lou Amiano, as well as a host of other talented young players.

Indians Coach Joe Delece, III, is now in his second season as head coach, his sixth in the organization. In 2019, Delece took the Junior Indian team to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio and won a national youth football tournament there.

The Pennsauken Sr. Indians will hold tryouts for the 2022 season in late July of next year, at the practice facility located off of Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken. For more details, find the team on Facebook @jrindiansfootballandcheer and Instagram @pennsaukenjrindians.



The Pennsauken Senior Indians won their league championship in November and earned the silver championship during a national tournament in December.

Hunter, Pichardo Place At Queen Of The East



Pennsauken High School's Macenzie Hunter and Jada Pichardo placed during last month's Queen of the East wrestling tournament, held at PHS. Congratulations!

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Intramural Sports In Pennsauken

By Billy Snyder, Athletic Director,
Pennsauken Public Schools

The Pennsauken Athletic Department ventured outside of the box this winter to give our "Future Indians" the opportunity to play basketball and wrestle.

After a Google survey was sent out to parents with an encouraging response, a plan was quickly put together and a pilot program was presented, adopted, and implemented in the span of about three weeks. A fee was discussed internally, and it was determined that if the program was free, then parents could potentially use the program as childcare. The fee of \$5 per

week for an 11-week program was how the \$55 registration fee was determined.

Once the registration window opened, the response was more than encouraging, it became overwhelming. Wrestling has over 30 kids in the program, while basketball has over 200 kids participating.

This type of response has the District looking at a potential spring track program, so stay tuned!



The Pennsauken Athletic Department is offering intramural basketball and wrestling programs.

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